

From: TucsonSentinel.com
To: [Frank V. Tellez](#)
Subject: No More Deaths volunteers found guilty, plus: Tucson "sanctuary city" initiative, Dorman for mayor? & more local news
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Breaking news from TucsonSentinel.com

[No More Deaths volunteers found guilty for water drops in protected wilderness](#)



Four No More Deaths volunteers, charged with federal misdemeanors after they left water and food for migrants crossing Southern Arizona's protected Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge, have been found guilty, U.S. District Court Judge Bernardo Velasco ruled late Friday.

In a court decision released late Friday, Velasco said that the four women — Natalie Hoffman, Oona Holcomb, Madeline Huse, and Zaachila Orozco-McCormick — violated federal laws, because "they did not get an access permit, they did not remain on designated roads, and they left water, food, and crates in the Refuge," he wrote.

"All of this, in addition to violating the law, erodes the national decision to maintain the Refuge in its pristine nature," Velasco said. They each face up to six months in prison and a fine of \$500, and will be sentenced on February 18, he said.

The case has major implications for the future of humanitarian aid for people crossing through Arizona's deserts, especially in the remote stretch of landscape known as the Growler Valley, which sets inside 800,000 acres of protected wilderness in the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge. No More Deaths is among the local humanitarian groups that provides aid — including water stations in rugged areas far from populated areas — for border crossers who might otherwise be numbered among the dead in the desert.

"This verdict challenges not only No More Deaths volunteers, but people of conscience throughout the country. If giving water to someone dying of thirst is illegal, what humanity is left in the law of this country?" said Catherine Gaffney, a longtime No More Deaths volunteer. [Read more, including the full decision, from TucsonSentinel.com's Paul Ingram, who was there in court throughout the trial »](#)

Earlier this week: [4 No More Deaths volunteers on trial for leaving water, food in wildlife refuge](#)

The trial of four No More Deaths volunteers facing federal charges this week may have serious implications for the future of humanitarian aid for people crossing through Southern Arizona's deserts. [Read more»](#)

More authentically local news



City atty: 'Sanctuary city' initiative may violate SB1070

Even as organizers work to collect signatures for a citizen initiative that aims to make Tucson a “sanctuary” for immigrants, City Attorney Mike Rankin wrote on Wednesday that parts of the initiative are in “direct conflict” with Arizona’s controversial SB1070.

On Saturday, organizers with the Tucson Families Free and Together campaign began collecting the 9,241 signatures they need to get on the November ballot.

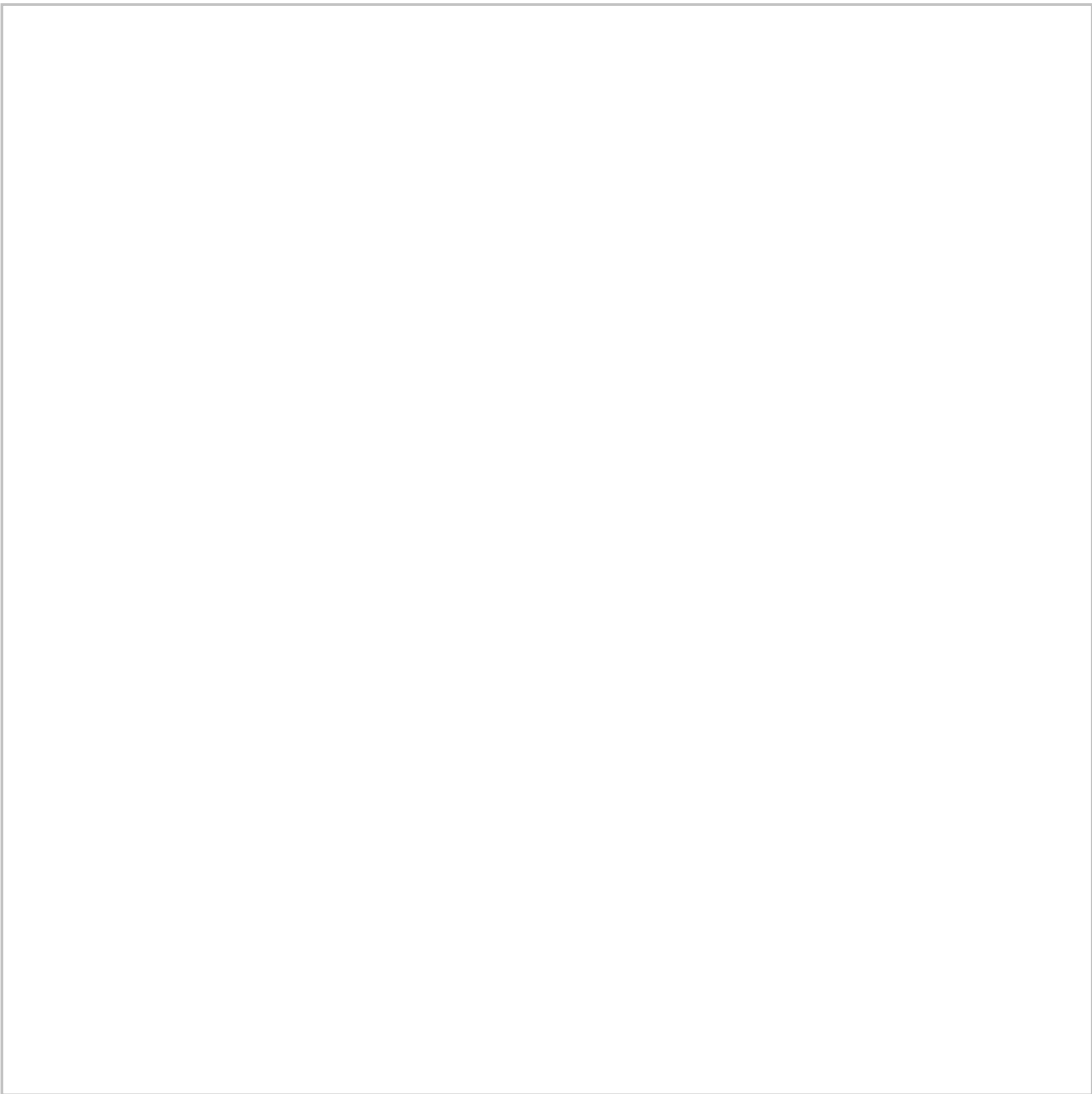
While Tucson and other cities, like Phoenix, have already modified their police general orders to protect immigrants and share less information with immigration authorities, this measure would make Tucson the state's only sanctuary city. A similar move is currently in the works in Flagstaff.

Zaira Livier, the executive director the People's Defense Initiative, which is managing the campaign, said that protecting people in the country illegally in Tucson is "exactly what we're trying to do."

Rankin, in a memo prepared for city officials, said that the measure would violate state law in some aspects, and limit local cooperation with federal law enforcement agencies, such as the FBI, Marshals Service or DEA, if they did not sign a special agreement with Tucson. He also assessed parts of the proposed ordinance legally unenforceable as written, and noted the measure would provide protection against immigration inquiries for people charged with domestic violence and sexual assault.

Organizers said they specifically wrote the measure to withstand challenges, and purposefully used the word "sanctuary" in the initiative. [Read more»](#)

What the Devil won't tell you, columnist Blake Morlock will



MLK & impatience: Dubious sanctuary initiative seeks to create necessary 'tension'

Activists are collecting signatures for Tucson "sanctuary city" initiative that may be counterproductive, ill-conceived, total folly, legally doomed — and yet remains exactly the right thing to do. [Read more analysis and commentary from Morlock »](#)

More news



376 people, including families & children, detained crossing border near Yuma

While the federal government remains shutdown over border security spending, a group of 376 people, almost all families or unaccompanied children from Central America, crossed the border barrier near Yuma on Monday morning.

Border Patrol said on Twitter that the group of 376 Central Americans "inundated" agents in the sector, posting video of the group, who crossed near San Luis, just

south of Yuma, Ariz. and were walking on a patrol road alongside the 18-foot metal bollard wall. [Read more»](#)

Weekend music



Tucson sounds: The Gem Show, Alien Jacket, & Juliana Warkentin

Local rocker John Polle's latest band The Gem Show, teen band Alien Jacket and pop songstress Juliana Warkentin, plus music news, weekly listings and more in your TucsonSentinel.com music roundup. [Read more from TucsonSentinel.com's](#)

[Randi Dorman, developer, staking out bid in Democratic mayoral primary](#)



She's still playing it mum in public, but developer Randi Dorman is making moves to join the race for Tucson mayor — talking to prospective campaign staffers as well as potential donors. [Read more»](#)

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More local news



[Pima men's basketball win streak halted at Phoenix College](#)

The Pima Community College men's basketball team (14-4, 7-3 in ACCAC) had its 10-game winning streak snapped on Wednesday at Phoenix College (7-11, 2-8).

[Read more»](#)



[Pima women's basketball overcomes 17-point deficit to stun Phoenix College](#)

The Pima Community College women's basketball team (10-8, 6-4 in ACCAC) put it all together to rally in the second half on Wednesday at Phoenix College (4-14, 2-8).

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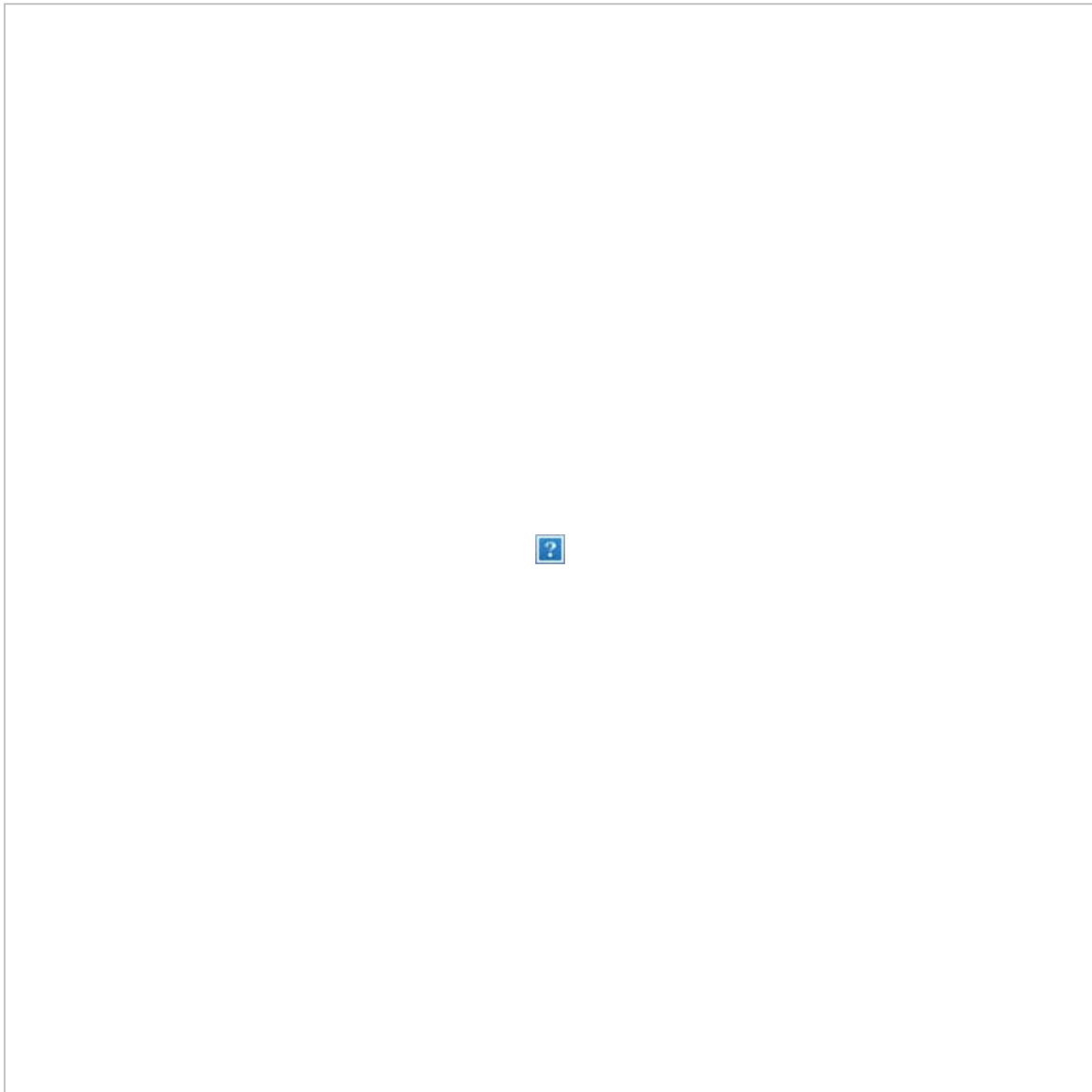
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In case you missed it



[Gov't shutdown cancels nearly 43,000](#)

immigration hearings, including 1K in Arizona

Nearly 43,000 hearings in immigration cases have been cancelled, including nearly 1,000 cases in Arizona, as judges and staff have been furloughed because of the partial shutdown of the federal government.

Driven by a fight over a White House demand for more than \$5.7 billion for a border wall, the shutdown has entered its fourth week, leaving the nation's immigration court system paralyzed after a significant percentage of the Justice Department's judges, lawyers and staff have been effectively laid off.

The delayed hearings, which must be rescheduled, will result in an "avalanche" of cases that will clog the immigration docket for years, an experienced federal immigration judge said.

"This is the straw added to the camel's back and it breaks us," said Judge Dana Leigh Marks, president emeritus of the National Association of Immigration Judges. [Read more»](#)

What the Devil: [Arizona thirsty: Tucson should answer Ducey's call for bipartisan drought planning ... or else](#)

Ducey's call for shared sacrifice usually spells doom for Tucson, so local leaders better cowboy up and answer his call for bipartisan cooperation to deal with Arizona's drought. We got water to spare and the wolves in Phoenix know it. [Read more of Blake's take »](#)



[‘Let’s get to work’: Ducey touts accomplishments, lists water & education as top priorities](#)

Education funding and the looming threat of water shortages were among the key issues Gov. Doug Ducey emphasized in his State of the State address Monday afternoon. [Read more»](#)



[Supreme Court won't hear Arizona law denying bail in sex-assault cases](#)

The U.S. Supreme Court has refused to revive a voter-approved Arizona law that denied bail to suspects in sexual assault cases, after that law was struck down as unconstitutional last year. [Read more»](#)

[Arizona's Biggs, Gosar among handful to vote against back pay for furloughed](#)

[feds](#)

President Donald Trump repeated a promise Monday that furloughed federal workers will get back pay when the government shutdown ends, but a bill to do just that was opposed by two Republican lawmakers from Arizona. [Read more»](#)



[9th Circuit says Tucson woman can use battered woman syndrome as](#)

defense in gun case

A federal appeals court ordered a new trial for a Tucson woman, saying she was wrongly denied the chance to present evidence of battered woman syndrome in her defense against weapons charges. [Read more»](#)



UA lectures to focus on endangered vaquita porpoises

UA's free Science Tumamoc Hill lectures will focus on the world's smallest porpoise, Mexico's vaquita, which has been pushed to the brink of extinction by illegal gill net fishing. [Read more»](#)

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